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RECORDS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

The annual convention held at Columbus, Ohio, last December adopted the following by-law:

"On call of the President of Sigma Xi, the Executive Committee shall hold annually at least one stated meeting, independent of other organizations."

In accordance with this new by-law of the Society, President Charles S. Howe called the annual meeting of the Executive Committee for Saturday, May 20, in Cleveland, Ohio. Those present were Charles S. Howe (Case School), President of Sigma Xi; F. E. Kester (University of Kansas); Dexter S. Kimball (Cornell University); C. E. McClung (University of Pennsylvania); Julius Stieglitz (University of Chicago); and Henry B. Ward (University of Illinois), Secretary of Sigma Xi. The President had transmitted a program to the various members in advance as follows:

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sigma Xi to be held Saturday, May 20, in Cleveland, the following subjects will come up for discussion:

1. Conditions under which charters for new chapters should be recommended by the Committee.
2. Petitions for new chapters.
3. Expansion of the Society—desirability of placing chapters in more universities, especially state universities.
4. Chapters in separate agricultural colleges.
5. The new agricultural fraternity at Minnesota.
6. Chapters in colleges as distinct from universities.
7. Chapters in foreign countries.
8. Attitude of Sigma Xi toward work in research.
9. Desirability of associate membership.
10. How can Sigma Xi keep in closer touch with non-resident members?
11. Type of charter for Washington Chapter.
12. Meaning of Article III, Section 4 of Constitution—Is the publication of research work a basis for faculty election? This question is proposed by the Union Chapter.
13. The nomination of a distinguished person for membership under Class B, the person not being a member of the institution nor

an alumnus nor having an honorary degree from the same, but having been at one time a member of the staff. The question has been sent to the Executive Committee for decision by the Missouri Chapter.

14. The character of the QUARTERLY and means of making it more representative and more useful to the Society. Problem of general circulation among non-active members—submitted by the Columbus Convention.

15. Continuity of policy and ideals despite constant change in officers and in membership in chapters. Many chapters proceed as they desire often without knowledge of their rights and limitations as expressed in the Constitution and practices of other chapters. Such independence of action may be wise but should not be allowed to develop without clear recognition of the fact by the Society as a whole.

The Committee spent the entire day in discussing the affairs of the Society along the special lines suggested in the program outlined. They took up various items which had been referred to the Committee by chapters, as well as those that had been passed over by the annual convention at Columbus and went further into the discussion of problems for developing and strengthening the organization. The official record of items considered on which definite action was taken is as follows:

A communication transmitted by the Secretary of the District of Columbia Chapter was first laid before the Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, at the meeting of the District of Columbia members of the Sigma Xi, held in the United States National Museum on March 5, 1915, the following motion made by Dr. L. O. Howard, and amended by Dr. F. V. Coville, was carried without dissent, viz., "to consider that in addition to those who have already signified their intention to become charter members, all members of the society of the Sigma Xi resident in the District of Columbia and vicinity shall be accepted as charter members, provided they express such intention on or before March 31, 1915," and

WHEREAS, in reply to a circular letter which the Secretary was instructed to issue at this meeting and which embodied the sense of said motion, 172 members signified their intention of becoming charter members and

WHEREAS, in the charter presented to the chapter at the meeting held on February 19, the names of only 12 members appeared as charter members,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the chapter requests the Executive Committee of the Sigma Xi to withdraw the present charter and to issue a new one containing the names of all the charter members in accordance with Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution of the Society of the Sigma Xi.

(Signed) L. O. Howard
H. Hasselbring
H. L. Shantz
Committee.

While the Executive Committee feared that a strict construction of the law would require adherence to the original view that the persons signing the request for the granting of a charter were in fact the only charter members of the organization, yet since other announcements had been made by the Washington Chapter in good faith and since all the persons concerned were actually in Washington at the time, were interested in the organization, and by virtue of membership in the Society entitled to participate in the formation of the new alumni chapter, the committee voted to instruct the secretary to have a new document prepared including the names of all persons who signed the roll prior to the date fixed by the Washington Chapter as the limit for securing charter membership.

The Secretary presented a communication from the Union Chapter which read as follows:

"Some discussion has arisen in the the Union Chapter as to the meaning of Article III, Section 4 (a) of the Constitution. What is the interpretation of the words 'who has shown noteworthy achievement as an original investigator,' etc.? In the March, 1915, number of the *QUARTERLY* in your report, page 23, at the bottom is a statement 'confessed to a distinct violation of the terms of the Constitution that require the publication of research work as a basis for faculty election.' Has the Constitution ever been interpreted so that 'shown noteworthy achievement' means the publication of research work? I ask this not in an argumentative attitude but as a point of information. Personally I believe that the publication

of research work should be a requirement for faculty election. However, I am not sure that this can be read in the provision of the Constitution.

"I would be pleased to have any information on the subject."

After extended discussion of the wording of the Constitution as found in the different editions in which it has been published and of the appendices which represent the construction placed upon the document by individual conventions of the Society, the decision of the Executive Committee was formulated in the terms of the following resolution:

Having been requested by the Union Chapter to interpret the meaning of Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution, the Executive Committee has ruled, subject to correction by the Convention, that in the election of faculty and non-resident members, emphasis should be laid in fact, as it is in form, upon the words "*noteworthy*" in the phrase "*noteworthy achievement*," and "*original*" in the phrase "*as an original investigator*," and that routine construction or publication of routine work does not meet the spirit of the Constitution. The Executive Committee considers that publication of such scientific work and similar publication or exploitation of engineering work should precede by at least one year consideration for election of such members.

In order that the Society at large may see that the Constitutional requirements for the eligibility for membership are adhered to, the basis of election for each member, as required by Article III, should, in the opinion of the Committee, be reported by chapters annually to the Secretary of the Society and published in the *QUARTERLY*.

On motion the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Secretary read a communication from Missouri Chapter as follows:

"I wish in behalf of the local chapter to refer the following question of eligibility under Class B to you or if necessary to the Executive Committee for a ruling:

'Dr. * * * * *, a man of wide reputation, was nominated by one of our alumni members for membership under Class B. In recognition of his distinguished services to the University and his contributions to general knowledge, the local chapter is disposed to elect him, provided he is eligible under this category. He is not a

graduate of this institution nor has he an honorary degree from this institution. Yet we felt that his former connection with the institution was sufficient to warrant his election.

‘He is an old man of 92, whose full career you may find summarized in *Who’s Who*, and it seemed to us that our thus honoring him was primarily a local matter and that it would mean possibly more to him to be nominated in this way than at a society convention. Will you kindly inform me if there are any objections to this action in your opinion, as it has been left to depend upon your ruling?’

After discussion of the specifications for the election of members as laid down in the Constitution, it was voted that in the opinion of the Executive Committee the nomination suggested by the Missouri Chapter does not conform to the requirements of the Constitution nor to the spirit of the Society.

Attention was also called to the fact that under the explicit provisions of the Constitution *honorary members* are elected only at regular conventions by vote of assembled chapters and that no provision is made for their election under any circumstances by individual chapters. Since in some cases announcement of such elections has been made by certain chapters, it was deemed wise to call the attention of the various chapters and officers to the fact that under existing rules such elections are invalid and can not be accepted for publication in the records of the Society.

The Executive Committee then took up the consideration of the question of Associate Membership which had been referred to it by the Columbus Convention. In the opinion of all its members this was a measure fundamental for the development of the organization. It was, however, discussed in its many aspects with especially careful consideration for such objections as had been brought up from time to time either in individual correspondence or public discussion, and with the fullest regard for the varying opinions of individuals and chapters in the Society. At the close of the discussion the Committee voted to reaffirm the recommendation for the adoption of the amendments providing for Associate Membership.

With regard to the problem of a badge for Associate members it was voted that Article VI, Section 1 be changed as follows:

“Insert after Section 1 the symbol a).

RECORDS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 73

"Insert after the first paragraph a new provision as follows:

b) Associate members of this Society shall not be entitled to wear the present badge of the Society either as pendant, chain or pin, but may wear a small bar pin (unjeweled) bearing in juxtaposition the Greek letters Sigma and Xi in white on an electric blue ground. On the reverse may be engraved the owner's name or initials and the name of the institution."

The precise form of the badge was on motion referred to President Howe for consideration with a view to having a sample badge constructed and submitted to the Society at the next convention.

President Howe reported to the Committee that he had been in receipt of communications from many institutions inquiring into the possibility of securing membership in Sigma Xi and suggested that the time was ripe for making more precise specifications of the conditions under which the Executive Committee would look favorably upon applications for membership and endeavor to secure for the applicants favorable action by the convention. After very extended discussion, President Howe was requested to formulate the conditions which had been the subject of discussion. This was done, and the report of the President, which was approved, reads thus:

The following conditions should hold in any institution if the Executive Committee is to make a favorable report upon an application for a charter:

1. The authorities of the college or university, i. e., the trustees and the president, should be favorably disposed toward research.
2. There should be apparatus and facilities available for research.
3. The members of the faculty who sign the petition should be men who have had adequate training for research.
4. There should have been a continuous output of research from the institution for a number of years preceding the application for a charter.
5. There should be appropriations for research, or at least a certain amount of the appropriations made to the scientific department should be available for apparatus for research.

The Executive Committee believes that unless these conditions hold in an institution, it cannot worthily represent the aims of the Sigma Xi and will not in the future devote such a part of its energies to research as to make it a credit to the society.

Various petitions for the establishment of chapters were laid before the Executive Committee with the documents in support of the same. Each one of them was discussed in detail and action was taken in a preliminary or advisory manner.

The Committee considered the amendment presented to the Columbus Convention by the Minnesota Chapter and printed in the *QUARTERLY* (Vol. 4, p. 9): "Active members of any chapter who are in arrears for dues for two years or more may, after due notification, be dropped from active membership by vote of the chapter; and the names of members so dropped shall be published in the *SIGMA XI QUARTERLY*."

After extended discussion attention was called to the fact that in joining the Society every member assents to the article in the Constitution asking if he is willing to assume the obligations laid upon him in the organization, and that hence in neglecting to meet his share of the general expense he is failing to keep his pledge. It was voted to recommend to the next convention the adoption of the amendment in modified form as follows:

"Any member in arrears for one year shall be duly notified of this fact by the Secretary of the Chapter and in event of failure to respond within six weeks shall be suspended from membership in the Society. On payment of arrearage he may be reinstated by vote of the Chapter. If such reinstatement is not effected in one year his name shall be deleted from the rolls of the Society."

With reference to the question of extending the organization into foreign countries, the Executive Committee felt after discussion that present conditions abroad precluded any present consideration of such extension.

The question of publicity within the organization was subjected to careful consideration and the President was requested to write to the presidents of various chapters, calling their attention to the desirability of publishing full statistical records and extended annual reports of the activities in individual chapters. The President was also requested to secure in each chapter a correspondent for the *QUARTERLY* who should have a "nose for news" and be able through his contributions to give other chapters a true picture of the work and influence of his own chapter in supporting and developing the research ideals of Sigma Xi.